

Concept Note



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DEFINITION

The most universally recognised and used definition of Sustainable Development is the one established by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) in the “Our Common Future” report (also known as the Brundtland Report):

“Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”¹

The report also mentions that an overriding priority should be given to the essential needs of the world's poor, and that there are certain limitations on the environment's “ability to meet present and future needs”.²

The WCED definition is special in two particular aspects: Firstly, it underlines the importance of **intergenerational equity** as it underscores the preparedness of present and future generations to meet their own needs. Secondly, it gives priority to the world's poorest, hence including **elements of humanity** in the definition. The report linked human development, i.e. poverty reduction, gender equity and wealth redistribution etc., and underlines that there are certain limitations to the environment's capacity to handle economic growth – both in developed and developing countries.

Following the Millennium Development Goals³, the United Nations (UN) adopted in 2015 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵. Both are considered the main framework and holy grail for international cooperation within the field of sustainability today and all countries in the world have committed to achieve the 169 SDG targets by 2030.⁶

DIMENSIONS

Fundamentally, sustainability and sustainable development are split into 3 dimensions:⁷

Economic, Social & Environmental

According to the concept, all three dimensions need to be taken into consideration in decision-making for actions and activities to be truly sustainable. In this ideal scenario, the environment would be protected, the flow of the economy would not be hindered and the quality of life of all people would be improved. The dimensions are consequently interlinked and the failure to take any one of them into account when adopting decisions hampers the probability of achieving real sustainable solutions.⁸

Economic Dimension

*“Economic sustainability means that decisions are made in the most equitable and fiscally sound way possible while considering the other aspects of sustainability. In most cases, projects and decisions must be made with the long-term benefits in mind... There are several key ideas that make up economic sustainability. For example, governments should look to promoting “smart growth” through no-nonsense land use planning and subsidies or tax breaks for green development.”*⁹

Subtopics of the Economic dimension include: Smart Growth, Long-Term Planning, Cost Savings, Research & Development Spending, and Costs of Living.

Social Dimension

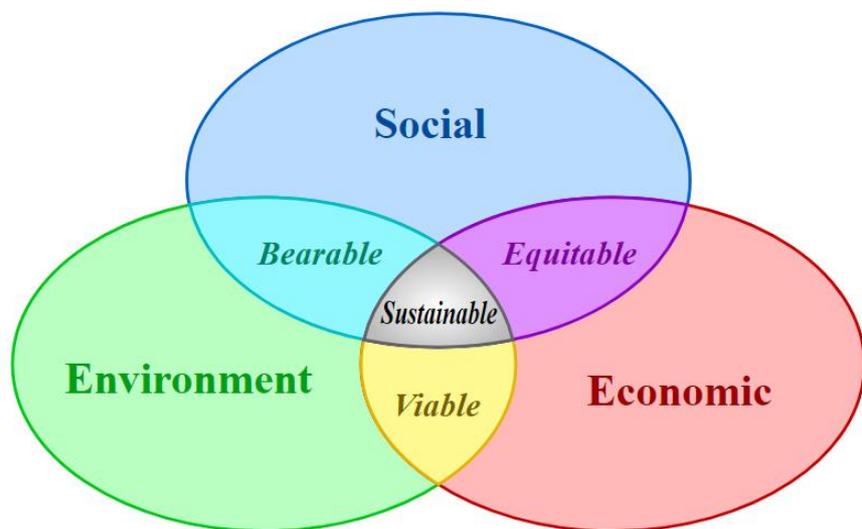
*“Social sustainability is based on the concept that a decision or project promotes the betterment of society. In general, future generations should have the same or greater quality of life benefits as the current generation does. This concept also encompasses many aspects such as human rights, environmental law, and public involvement & participation.”*¹⁰

Subtopics of the Social dimension include: Quality of Life, Education, Community Development, Equal Opportunity, Law & Ethics, Peace, Social Justice, and Poverty Reduction.

Environmental Dimension

“In a truly sustainable environment, an ecosystem would maintain populations, biodiversity, and overall functionality over an extended period of time. Ideally, decisions that are made should promote equilibrium within our natural systems and seek to encourage positive growth. One of the concepts that is of utmost importance is the proper management of our natural resources.”¹¹

Subtopics of the Environmental dimension include: Resource Management, Environmental Protection, Habitat Restoration & Preservation, Renewable Energy, Reducing Emissions, Sustainable Agriculture & Fishing, Tree Planting, and Waste Management.



Credit: Johann Dréo, 2006.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASEF

Since its inception, the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)¹² has put great importance on Sustainability and Environmental issues. Consequently, ASEF has also chosen Sustainable Development¹³ as 1 of its 6 key thematic areas of work.¹⁴

ASEF annually organises an Asia-Europe Environment Forum (ENVForum)¹⁵ as well as various capacity trainings on Sustainable Development for ASEM authorities and civil society representatives. ASEF has also organised other interdisciplinary projects and activities linked to sustainability and the environment.¹⁶ A great focus within ASEF since 2015 has been put into the promotion and achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

ASEF's Education Department (ASEFEdu) has chosen to focus on the overarching key theme of *“Access to Education and Employment”* for the period 2017-2020. Not only fall ASEFEdu activities organised during this period under this thematic focus; they also support the UN SDGs through informing and involving the public in meaningful discussions on the various SDGs and their targets. It is in this light that the theme of the 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22), *“Sustainable Tourism: Youth Driving Green Growth”*, was chosen: a project that focuses on sustainable development and tourism, but also on the advancement of the green economy sector through the creation of employment opportunities for the youth.¹⁷

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN ASEM

International cooperation on sustainable development has been a priority of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM)¹⁸ Process from the beginning. In the Chair's Statement of the very 1st ASEM Summit (ASEM1) in 1996 the ASEM Leaders *“acknowledged the importance of addressing*

environmental issues... and agreed that mutually beneficial cooperation should be undertaken in this field... to **promote sustainable development**.”¹⁹ At the last 11th ASEM Summit (ASEM11) in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the ASEM Leaders reaffirmed their commitment “...to work together towards the **timely and full implementation of the [SDGs]**”.²⁰

Next to ASEM Summits, the governments of Asia and Europe also meet regularly within the framework of the ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue seminar series to discuss collaboration on the achievement of the SDGs. The latest of these seminars, the 6th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue on “*Integrated Water Resources Management for Sustainable Development*”, took place in 2017 in Lao DPR.²¹

The ASEM Leaders have throughout the years also highlighted “**the importance of tourism both as an engine for growth and decent job creation** and as a crucial tool to enhance people-to-people contacts.”²² In addition they have underlined the close link between youth employment and sustainable societies affirming that “*decent and productive employment, especially for women and the youth, is a central pillar of sustainable and inclusive development*”.²³ Among others, the Leaders have “*reaffirmed the important role of the private sector as well as public and private sector partnership in promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, creating decent jobs, and in increasing trade, investment and sustainable tourism in and between the two regions.*”²⁴

Overall, achieving sustainable development, developing collaboration within green economy sectors, working towards the protection and revitalisation of the environment and the further development of the tourism industry as a key employment and economic sector, are all among ASEM’s top priorities – both on a national level in each individual ASEM Partner country, as well as jointly through multilateral collaborations within the framework of ASEM.

(UN)SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

DEFINITION

According to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Sustainable Tourism is “*tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities*”²⁵

The definition highlights 4 aspects:

- 1) **Long-term Perspective:** Tourism activities should take into consideration its impacts today as well as in the future. Hence all stakeholders involved in the tourism sector need to assess their impact on a long-term perspective;
- 2) **3 Dimensions:** The definition underlines that tourism activities need to take into consideration their economic, social and environmental impact. These dimensions are the same as the dimensions of sustainability and they are all interlinked among each other;
- 3) **Multiple Stakeholders:** All stakeholders need to be included in the process, i.e. tourists, the tourism industry, the environment and local populations. Different stakeholders might have different responsibilities, but each one plays a crucial part in the whole sustainable tourism ecosystem;
- 4) **Benefit Sharing:** Even though the UNWTO definition doesn’t mention or highlight the marginal disadvantaged groups, an important aspect of sustainable tourism is that its benefits should enhance the well-being of local communities, rather than support or enrich foreign initiatives.

This means that “*sustainable tourism development is ecologically sustainable, economically viable as well as ethically and socially equitable. It respects the fragile environmental balance that characterizes many tourism destinations... and it is based on a long-term perspective.*”²⁶

CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

Introduction

The tourism industry continues growing at a record pace: Only in the last two decades the number of international tourists worldwide – understood as the number of overnight visitors to international destinations – has doubled from 0.6 billion to 1.2 billion per year.²⁷ By 2030 the UNWTO expects the figure to have increased up to 1.8 billion international tourists per year.²⁸ These figures represent only international tourism: In addition there were a total of 6 billion domestic tourists in 2016 with the year's total number of tourists hence being: **7.2 billion tourists.**²⁹

It is clear that these large number of international and domestic tourists contribute significantly to the economy and well-being of countries and their local populations. On the other hand though, these same tourists have an extremely high impact on the environment in the tourist destinations. If this is not managed properly and in a planned way, friction with local host communities could appear. Subsequently, there is an urgent the need for green and sustainable strategies and approaches within the tourism and related sectors.

Challenges

The array of challenges and issues that require urgent attention related to sustainability in the tourism sector is significant and keeps increasing in accordance with the numbers of tourists. These are some of the most significant challenges that countries will be facing in face of increased tourists and tourism:³⁰

1) Increased usage of natural and cultural resources

Example: In Bali, Indonesia, 100 tourists in 55 days consume the same amount of clean water as what is enough for 100 rural families to last 3 years.³¹ Considering that Bali receives annually more than 11 million tourists, the tourists' water consumption here and in other parts of the world is alarming and leaves often local populations in fragile situations as they compete with tourists for the resources in scarcity.

2) Negative impacts on tourist destinations, including the use of natural resources and management of waste

Example: According to Tourism Watch, over the next 25 years land use for tourism purposes will double, and later almost triple by 2050.³² The increased use of land for tourism purposes creates frictions with local populations as it reduces their farming lands as well as endangers fragile environments such as e.g. coastal areas.³³

3) Ever increasing impact of tourism-related transport

Example: Not only is tourism responsible for nearly 10% of the world's total carbon emissions,³⁴ 75% of all energy and CO₂ emissions in tourism are directly or indirectly linked to transport.³⁵ As technological and scientific developments in the transportation sector is still lagging, other ideas need to be presented, developed and implemented in order to cope with the impact of the ever-increasing transportation demands by the tourist masses.

4) Quality of employment in the tourism sector

Example: The tourism sector offers significant opportunities for young people and in fact, it does employ a significantly higher proportion of youth than the overall workforce.³⁶ However, the opportunities that come are also linked with challenges as young people and others experience “*poor pay and working conditions, sexual harassment, discrimination, unequal treatment, low education and training, undemocratic and rigid corporate culture, seasonality and political instability*”.³⁷

5) Inaccessibility of certain types of tourism

Example: According to the World Health Organization, about 1 billion people on the planet experience some form of disability.³⁸ Despite almost 1 out of every 7 people in the world being disabled, many tourist destinations and programmes are today still inaccessible to persons with mobility challenges and businesses and other stakeholders are subsequently losing out on significant business opportunities.³⁹

6) Lack of benefits for local communities

Example: Despite tourism's significant benefits for local populations, including financial ones, the constant increase of mass tourism has led to negative side-effects, including e.g. sound pollution, overcrowding of destinations, overconsumption of natural resource and products, challenges with water and waste management, increased insecurity and crime, etc.⁴⁰

Fortunately, recent studies show that people care about the impact of their actions on the environment: the demand for more sustainable tourism options is expected to keep increasing in the future, therefore also increasing the demand for more sustainable alternatives to unsustainable mass tourism.⁴¹ But it is not only the individual behaviour of tourists that needs to change – the entire economic system requires a review and new priorities. Taking this into consideration, SDG 8 on Decent Work & Economic Growth defines in its target 8.4 that:

Countries should improve “efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation”⁴²

In other words: economic growth should not equal to environmental degradation and countries should subsequently find ways to promote economic growth that doesn't impact the environment or the social dimensions of sustainability.

Opportunities & Solutions

Even though it is debatable how significant of an impact are the efforts put in place to develop and promote sustainable tourism or if sustainable tourism can contribute to the green economy at all, not all news are negative: A large number of governments and civil society entities are trying to bring change into the tourism sector. E.g. the Government of Slovenia has recently adopted its Strategy for the Sustainable Growth of Tourism for 2017-2021.⁴³ Despite the strategy, mainly focusing on economic aspects such as increasing the number of international tourists visiting the country, also lays focus on sustainability (green) issues and highlights the importance of the Green Scheme of Slovenian tourism⁴⁴ – a programme that certifies destinations, accommodation providers, agencies and parks that have committed themselves to greening practices. Globally significant investments are also being put into green economic sectors, some of which could lead to a decrease in the impact of tourism in many destinations around the world.⁴⁵

22nd ASEF SUMMER UNIVERSITY (ASEFSU22)

The world's commitment to achieving the SDGs is another positive and on-going action. As part of the SDGs, countries are urged to take action to solve some of the most crucial environmental issues, but also to solve some of the most pressing socio-economic challenges, including high levels of youth employment. Both within the SDGs as well as in other instruments, the tourism sector is seen as one of the economic sectors which could significantly contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and sustainable development in general. It is therefore no surprise that several SDG targets link the challenges but also opportunities related to tourism and employment and sustainable economic growth. E.g. SDG target 8.9 highlights that countries should “*devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products*”⁴⁶ and within target 8.6 countries commit to promote and strengthen **green economies, including sustainable tourism**, as it could also serve to “*substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training*”.⁴⁷ In other words, governments acknowledge the pressing issues and have committed to working to identify and implement solutions to these challenges. Finally, also the behaviour of individual tourists needs to change. Tourists need to consider the impact of their travelling habits and the choices they make. With increased demand for alternative and less-harmful tourism options, the supply offered by the tourism industry will eventually diversify, leading to the tourism industry's impact on the planet lessening.

THE PROJECT

The ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU) is a 2-week experiential learning journey and “Interdisciplinary Innovathon” where students and young professionals can foster cross-cultural exchanges and networks with other youth from Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Partner countries.⁴⁸ ASEFSU takes place annually, each year tackling a different theme of socio-political concern within Asia and Europe.

The 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22) will take place from 12–23 September 2018 in Croatia & Slovenia on the topic “*Sustainable Tourism: Youth Driving Green Growth*”. ASEFSU22 will focus on the topics from the perspective of the 3 dimensions of sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental. By participating in the project, you will have the unique opportunity to deepen your knowledge on contemporary issues and propose concrete solutions to societal challenges related to tourism, sustainable development and the green economy. You will also develop tangible results and daring proposals to pressing societal affairs, and, hence, make a positive impact within ASEM societies.

ASEFSU22 FOCUS AREAS

The 22nd ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU22) will focus on sustainable tourism & green economy based on the 3 dimensions of sustainable development:

1) Economic

This ASEFSU22 area focuses among others on the financial and economic benefits for local populations and civil society entities, including businesses, as well as the impact of investments in the sustainable tourism sector. An important aspect of this focus area are the employment opportunities created through the investment in tourism and the green economy sector.

Examples of sub-topics within this dimension include:

- Sustainable Transport
- Youth Employment
- Sustainable Consumption & Production

2) Social

This ASEFSU22 area focuses on the soft sides of sustainable tourism and environmental policies, such as the well-being of people, the preservation of cultural heritage and the designing of inclusive and accessible destinations and programmes.

Examples of sub-topics within this dimension include:

- Cultural Heritage
- Inclusion
- Interactions with Locals

3) Environmental

This ASEFSU22 area focuses on the sustainable use of natural resources and the impact tourism has on the environment. The area explores innovation and technologies that can support the tourism industry to assess and diminish its own impact.

Examples of sub-topics within this dimension include:

- Water & Waste Management
- Renewable Energy
- Technology

ORGANISERS OF THE ASEFSU22

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health.

ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks, and web-portals.

For more information, please visit the [website of the Asia-Europe Foundation \(ASEF\)](#).

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Algebra University College (Croatia)

Algebra University College carries out undergraduate and graduate studies in Computer Engineering, Multimedia Computing and Digital Marketing, and since 2016 the only e-Leadership MBA program in Croatia. The University's mission is to create opportunities for Croatian and international students to acquire excellent skills and knowledge as well as build globally competitive careers in digital technologies.

The University's overall approach to education and quality has been recognised by the national higher education regulatory agency of Croatia (ASHE) where the University is ranked 1st among all Universities of Applied Sciences in respect to quality assurance as well as the quality of overall educational process. In mid-2014, Microsoft declared Algebra the world's educational partner of the year, and the University is the only institution in Croatia that has met the quality criteria of the Dutch-Flemish accreditation agency - NVAO.

For more information, please visit the website of [Algebra University College](#).

Edward Bernays University College (Croatia)

Edward Bernays University College is a unique higher education institution offering the most innovative communications and tourism study programmes in Central and East Europe. The communications study programmes, Communication Management at the undergraduate level and Public Relations Management at the graduate level, and the tourism study programmes, Tourist Destination Management and Marketing at the undergraduate level and Experience Management in Tourism at the graduate level, bear the strong seal of dual education, allowing students to begin their careers in the business and tourism sectors already during their studies. The successful higher education model that students undergo from beginning to end of their studies is confirmed by the fact that a fifth of Bernays students are hired already during their studies.

By combining academic knowledge with practical skills, students master all areas of communication and tourism management, while students have the opportunity to gain the necessary knowledge for the real sector through partnerships with the leading PR agencies, companies and institutions, tourist destinations, global hotel chains, event management companies and occupational organisations from communications and tourism.

For more information, please visit the website of [Edward Bernays University College](#).

Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč (Croatia)

The Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč is a public scientific institute which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia. With a more than 140-year long tradition, the basic commitment of the Institute has been to perform applied scientific research with the aim to solve actual problems in agriculture and to define points of rural development. In the last 29 years the activities have been widened by research in the domain of tourism.

The Institute has three departments: Department of Agriculture and Nutrition, Department of Economics and Agriculture Development and Department of Tourism. Its research activities are

mostly oriented to viticulture, olive growing, olive oil investigation, vegetable growing, agro-food products development, ecology, sustainable tourism, protected area management, agricultural economics and organisation of the agriculture and the food system and rural development. The Institute actively collaborates with local authorities, educational institutions and related entities, particularly on raising public interest in sustainable tourism.

For more information, please visit the website of [Institute of Agriculture and Tourism in Poreč](#).

University of Ljubljana – Faculty of Economics (Slovenia)

University of Ljubljana is the oldest and largest higher education and scientific research institution in Slovenia. It has more than 40,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students and employs approximately 5,600 higher education teachers, researchers, assistants and administrative staff in 23 faculties and 3 arts academies.

The University of Ljubljana is renowned for its quality social and natural sciences and technical study programmes, structured in accordance with the Bologna Declaration. The University is listed amongst the top 500 universities in the world according to the ARWU Shanghai, Times THES-QS and WEBOMETRICS rankings.

For more information, please visit the website of the [University of Ljubljana](#).

University of Primorska – Faculty of Tourism Studies (Slovenia)

The Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica is a member of the University of Primorska. It is the only faculty of tourism in Slovenia that offers multi-disciplinary teaching and research of tourism and educates HR for high-quality planning, management and an excellent tourism offer.

Turistica has been implementing the European vision of modern education in tourism for more than 20 years. The Faculty uses the knowledge in the field of economy, ecology and social sciences to direct tourism into sustainable development. Thus, Turistica contributes to the knowledge society, innovative solutions, sustainable development and cultural harmony. Turistica has study programmes on all three levels, with the doctoral study programme *Innovative Tourism* initiated in 2012. The integration into the international environment, which is one of Turistica's main goals, brings additional value to the improvement of the study methods, and the advancement in science and research.

For more information, please visit the website of the [University of Primorska](#).

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CROATIA

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia

Website of the [Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia](#).

Croatian National Tourism Board

Website of the [Croatian National Tourism Board](#).

Administrative Department of Tourism of Istrian Region

Website of the [Administrative Department of Tourism of Istrian Region](#).

Association Lijepa Naša

Website of the [Association Lijepa Naša](#).

Association of Employers in Croatian Hospitality (UPUHH)

Website of the [Association of Employers in Croatian Hospitality \(UPUHH\)](#).

City of Poreč

Website of the [City of Poreč](#).

Tourism Association of Poreč

Website of the [Tourism Association of Poreč](#).

SLOVENIA

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Website of the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia](#).

Slovenian Tourism Board

Website of the [Slovenian Tourism Board](#).

Alliance for Innovators and Researchers in Tourism and Hospitality (AIRTH)

Website of the [Alliance for Innovators and Researchers in Tourism and Hospitality \(AIRTH\)](#).

GoodPlace Slovenia

Website of [GoodPlace Slovenia](#).

INTERNATIONAL**Hostelling International**

Website of [Hostelling International](#).

Urban Adventures

Website of [Urban Adventures](#).

Erasmus Student Network (ESN)

Website of the [Erasmus Student Network \(ESN\)](#).

European Students' Forum (AEGEE-Europe)

Website of the [European Students' Forum \(AEGEE-Europe\)](#).

European Students' Union (ESU)

Website of the [European Students' Union \(ESU\)](#).

International Association of Political Science (IAPSS)

Website of the [International Association of Political Science \(IAPSS\)](#).

¹ See [Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future](#), Our Common Future, Chapter 2: Towards Sustainable Development.

² *Ibid.*

³ United Nations, "[Millennium Development Goals](#)".

⁴ United Nations, "[2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)".

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), "[Sustainable Development](#)".

⁷ See e.g. United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), "[Sustainable Development](#)". Despite the various models of sustainability have been developed in recent years, within the United Nations a majority of UN Bodies still agree on splitting sustainable development into 3 dimensions, namely the Economic, Social and Environmental dimensions. See e.g. the UN Environment Programme, "[The Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development](#)". Other models suggest though the inclusion of a 4th dimension, with the 4 dimensions then being composed of: Ecology, Economics, Politics and Culture. See e.g. Paul JAMES, Liam MAGEE, Andy SCERRI and Manfred STEGER, "[Urban Sustainability in Theory and Practice: Circles of Sustainability](#)". The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on the other hand splits sustainability into 5 pillars, namely: Economic, Social, Environmental, Cultural and Peace. See UNWTO, "[Official Messages on World Tourism Day](#)". In the framework of the ASEFSU22 project, sustainable development will be understood to be composed of 3 dimensions, namely Economic, Social and Environmental.

⁸ Shawn Price, "[The Three Spheres of Sustainability](#)".

⁹ Chris Wanamaker, "[The Environmental, Economic, and Social Components of Sustainability](#)".

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) promotes understanding, strengthens relationships and facilitates cooperation among the people, institutions and organisations of Asia and Europe. ASEF enhances dialogue, enables exchanges and encourages collaboration across the thematic areas of culture, education, governance, sustainable development, economy and public health. ASEF is an intergovernmental not-for-profit organisation located in Singapore. Founded in 1997, it is the only institution of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM). ASEF runs more than 25 projects a year, consisting of around 100 activities, mainly conferences, seminars, workshops, lectures, publications, and online platforms, together with about 125 partner organisations. Each year over 3,000 Asians and Europeans participate in ASEF's activities, and much wider audiences are reached through its various events, networks and web-portals. For more information, please visit the [ASEF website](#).

¹³ ASEF, "[Sustainable Development](#)".

¹⁴ The 5 other thematic areas are Culture, Education, Governance, Economy and Public Health.

¹⁵ See [Asia-Europe Environment Forum \(ENVForum\)](#).

¹⁶ See among others the 11th ASEF Journalists' Seminar (ASEFJS11) on "[Shaping Public Perceptions and Minds towards Achieving the SDGs](#)", the 13th Informal ASEM Seminar on Human Rights (ASEFHRS13) on "[Human Rights and the Environment](#)" or the 18th ASEF Summer University (ASEFSU18) on "[Conscious Consumers for Environmental Sustainability](#)".

¹⁷ See [22nd ASEF Summer University \(ASEFSU22\)](#).

¹⁸ The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. For more information on ASEM, please visit the [ASEM InfoBoard website](#).

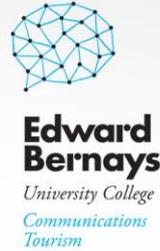
¹⁹ See [Chair's Statement, 1st ASEM Summit \(ASEM1\)](#), 1-2 March 1996, Bangkok, Thailand, p. 5, section 16.

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- ²⁰ See [Chair's Statement, 11th ASEM Summit \(ASEM11\)](#), 15-16 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, p. 2, section 5.
- ²¹ See [6th ASEM Sustainable Development Dialogue](#).
- ²² See [Chair's Statement, 10th ASEM Summit \(ASEM10\)](#), 16-17 October 2014, Milan, Italy, p. 9, section 34.
- ²³ *Ibid.*, p. 8, section 29.
- ²⁴ See [Chair's Statement, 11th ASEM Summit \(ASEM11\)](#), 15-16 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, p. 6, section 17.
- ²⁵ World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), "[Definition](#)".
- ²⁶ See UNESCO Office in Venice, "[Sustainable Tourism Development in UNESCO Designated Sites in South-Eastern Europe](#)".
- ²⁷ See UNWTO, "[Sustained Growth in International Tourism Despite Challenges](#)", and The World Bank, "[Statistics on the Number of Arrivals \(International Tourism\)](#)".
- ²⁸ See UN News, "[World could see 1.8 billion tourists by 2030 – UN agency](#)".
- ²⁹ See The Conversation, "['Sustainable tourism' is not working – here's how we can change that](#)".
- ³⁰ Inspired by the list by the European Commission, "[Sustainable tourism](#)".
- ³¹ The Jakarta Post, I Wayan Juniarta, "[Bali's water question](#)".
- ³² Tourism Watch, "[Assessing Tourism's Resource Use](#)".
- ³³ Cool Geography, "[Mass Tourism](#)".
- ³⁴ Independent, Josh Gabbatiss, "[Tourism is responsible for nearly one tenth of the world's carbon emissions](#)".
- ³⁵ Tourism Watch, "[Assessing Tourism's Resource Use](#)".
- ³⁶ World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), "[Gender equality and youth employment: Travel & Tourism as a key employer of women and young people](#)".
- ³⁷ Journal of Tourism & Hospitality, Sintayehu AYNALEM, Kassegn BIRHANU and Sewent TESEFAY, "[Employment Opportunities and Challenges in Tourism and Hospitality Sectors](#)".
- ³⁸ World Health Organization, "[World Report on Disability](#)".
- ³⁹ Andreas KAGERMEIER, University of Trier, "[Challenges to attaining 'Accessible Tourism for All' in German destinations as part of a CSR-oriented approach](#)".
- ⁴⁰ ABC News, "[European tourism prompts locals to declare 'enough is enough' as visitor numbers grow](#)".
- ⁴¹ See e.g. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), "[Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication](#)".
- ⁴² See [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, target 8.4](#).
- ⁴³ See Slovenian Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, "[Strategy for the Sustainable Growth of Slovenian Tourism for 2017-2021](#)".
- ⁴⁴ See Slovenian Tourist Board, "[Green Scheme of Slovenian tourism](#)".
- ⁴⁵ The investments required to achieve environmental sustainability are though multiple times higher than current efforts. E.g. in the ASEAN region green investment would need to grow by 400% compared to 2016 to guard against environmental risks. See DBS, "[Annual ASEAN green investment needs to grow 400% to guard against environmental risks](#)".
- ⁴⁶ See [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, target 8.9](#).
- ⁴⁷ *Ibid.*
- ⁴⁸ ASEM brings together 51 members countries: Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, the Lao PDR, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and Viet Nam.

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Hermit crabs are known for reusing abandoned, empty shells of molluscs. Some species of hermit crabs are known to be migratory; they do not only move from one place to another carrying their shells, often they also transfer from one shell to another while traveling. The ASEFSU22 takes inspiration from the hermit crab's peculiar way of life in encouraging the youth to transform the tourism industry by way of sustainable practices.